

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO,

as representative of

THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, *et
al.*

Debtors.¹

PROMESA
Title III

RECEIVED AND FILED

Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS
(Jointly Administered)

In re:

THE FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND
MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PUERTO RICO

as representative of

PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER
AUTHORITY,

Debtor.

PROMESA
Title III

2023 JUN 8 PM 4:13

Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

**JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES OBJECTION TO THE CONFIRMATION
OF THE PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY'S PLAN OF
ADJUSTMENT**

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¹ The Debtors in these Title III Cases, along with each Debtor's respective Title III case number and the last four (4) digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, as applicable, are the (i) Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3283-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3481); (ii) Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation ("COFINA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3284-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 8474); (iii) Puerto Rico Highways and Transportation Authority ("HTA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3567-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3808); (iv) Employees Retirement System of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ("ERS") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 3566-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 9686); and (v) Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA") (Bankruptcy Case No. 17 BK 4780-LTS) (Last Four Digits of Federal Tax ID: 3747). (Title III case numbers are listed as Bankruptcy Case numbers due to software limitations.)

TO THE HONORABLE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

COMES NOW JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES, as party in interest pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1109, appearing *pro se* pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1654, and respectfully requests that the Court deny the confirmation of the Modified Second Amended Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, ECF No. 3296 (“Plan of Adjustment”).

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. **JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES**, is a party in interest in the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority’s (“PREPA”) Title III Bankruptcy. See 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).
2. **I, JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES**, am a resident of Carolina, Puerto Rico. I reside in a household by myself, and I am 64 years old. I was born in Brooklyn and lived there until 1969. I am also a veteran, working at the Base Aerea Muñiz (Air National Guard) in Puerto Rico and the Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Florida (from 1978-1984). I worked for the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), from 1986 – 2014, where I was a Field III Electricity Worker. I have been retired since then. Today I suffer from health conditions, including H Pylori, and skin rashes, all as a result of my work at PREPA. Today, I receive \$2,200/month from my PREPA pension, as well as \$1,500 from Social Security benefits.
3. The question of who is a “party in interest” should be answered on a case-by-case basis. The definition is non-exhaustive. It generally refers to anyone with a financial stake or significant legal or practical stake in the outcome of bankruptcy. See, for example, Savage & Assocs. P.C. v. K&L Gates LLP (In re Teligent, Inc.), 640 F.3d 53 (2d Cir. 2011). That should mean anyone who will be significantly impacted.
4. **The Plan of Adjustment proposes to impose a Legacy Charge on the electric bills of residential and commercial customers for the next 35 years or more.** I am currently being

greatly impacted by the expensive electricity costs in Puerto Rico. I pay \$670/month for housing, \$352/month for my vehicle, \$30/month for water, plus phone, food, internet, electricity, and other miscellaneous expenses. I also have to provide for my granddaughters and family. I also pay \$150/month for health insurance. With only \$3,700/month to cover my everyday living costs, the proposed Plan's electricity cost increases will force me to cut spending on other essential services and greatly affects my financial stability. Last month, I was charged \$200 for electricity. The proposed Plan will likely augment my payment by 15%, and I cannot afford any additional costs without having to sacrifice other essential payments, such as food, or transportation. This Plan will greatly impact me, and other Puerto Ricans, up to the point where I doubt whether I will be able to even survive here in Puerto Rico. I am already suffering from grave psychological anxiety due to my precarious financial position, as well as the effects of my time serving in the US military, but I am unable to cover expenses for a psychologist. If this Plan is approved, my financial, physical, and emotional health will be greatly debilitated, as well as that of so many other residents in Puerto Rico.

5. In addition to the financial side effects of the rate increases, as a retiree, the Plan of Adjustment will reduce my pension benefits by eliminating Cost of Living Adjustments, pursuant to the Pension Claim treatment of Class 3. This means that the Plan will increase the cost of living in Puerto Rico while depriving me and my family of the benefit of cost-of-living increases, leaving me more vulnerable in my old age.
6. Therefore, **JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES** is a party in interest that "may raise and may appear and be heard on any issue in a case under this chapter." 11 U.S.C. § 1109(b).

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

7. For over a decade, Puerto Rico's economy has been in trouble and, by 2016, its massive debt

became unsustainable. On June 30, 2016, PROMESA was signed into law. 48 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. It created Title III to allow the territory access to bankruptcy relief for its instrumentalities. On July 2, 2017, the Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico (“Oversight Board”) initiated a Title III case for PREPA. On December 16, 2022, the Oversight Board filed the first *Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*. This has been amended 3 times. The current version of the Plan of Adjustment was filed on March 1, 2023.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

8. Section 314 of PROMESA has the requirements for the confirmation of a Plan of Adjustment. 48 U.S.C. § 2174(b).

The Title III court shall confirm a plan of adjustment so long as certain requirements are met, including that: the debtor is not prohibited by law from taking any action necessary to carry out the plan; . . . any legislative, regulatory, or electoral approval necessary under applicable law in order to carry out any provision of the plan has been obtained, or such provision is expressly conditioned on such approval; . . . [and] the plan is feasible. Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R. v. Federacion de Maestros de P.R., Inc. (In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd. for P.R.), 32 F.4th 67, 76 (1st Cir. 2022)(citation omitted).

9. The Plan of Adjustment is not feasible for the reasons stated in the expert declarations of Mr. Tom Sanzillo, ECF No. 3416; Dr. José I. Alameda Lozada, ECF No. 3417, Mr. Agustín Irizarry, ECF No. 3414.
10. “Under PROMESA, a plan of adjustment must be supported by financial projections that are ‘reasonable and demonstrate a probability that the debtor will be able to satisfy its obligations under the Plan.’” In re Fin. Oversight & Mgmt. Bd., 637 B.R. 223, 302-03 (D.P.R. 2022).
11. This means asking: “Is it likely that the debtor, after the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment, will be able to sustainably provide basic municipal services to the citizens of the debtor and to meet the obligations contemplated in the Plan without the significant probability

of a default?" Id.

12. The Plan of Adjustment will affect Puerto Rico's economy and ratepayers, such as **JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES**. Therefore, PREPA will not be able to generate enough revenue and comply with its obligations to creditors or to the people of Puerto Rico. Because of this, the Plan of Adjustment is not feasible.

CONCLUSION

13. In conclusion, this Court should not confirm the Plan of Adjustment because it does not meet the requirements under PROMESA. Additionally, the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment would cause great prejudice to **JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES** and the people of Puerto Rico.
14. PREPA's restructuring is very important, because electric power is necessary both for consumers and businesses alike. It is the driving force of Puerto Rico's economy. If PREPA's restructuring becomes too burdensome on the people and businesses of Puerto Rico, it will affect any possibility of economic growth and development.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES respectfully requests that the Court take notice of the above stated and deny the confirmation of the Plan of Adjustment.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this same date I conventionally filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court. A copy of this document will be emailed to case participants.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 8th day of June 2023.


JESÚS ANTONIO BARRETO NIEVES
Pro se

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